

Never Give Up
NASA Video — Script
Narrated by Administrator Daniel Goldin

Nearly a century ago
humans left the confines of surface travel
and ventured into powered flight.

And what a century it has been.

But only a week before
the Wright brothers' historic flight
the New York Times chided
another aviation pioneer.

After twice launching from a catapult
only to land in the Potomac River,
the Times asked him
to stop wasting time and money
involved in further air experiments.
Life is short, they added,
and he is capable of services to humanity
incomparably greater
than can be expected to result
from trying to fly."

Good thing no one listened.

Today the challenges are different,
but our resolve is equally intense:
at NASA we seek revolutionary breakthroughs
in science and technology
to knock down the barriers of routine space travel —
that will take us beyond the Earth,
beyond the Moon
and beyond where we've been before.

In the labs,
out in the field,
around launch complexes,
and aboard our spacecraft,
men and women,
every working day,
take on tasks few even dream about.

These women and men are

risk takers,
courageous explorers,
and brilliant achievers.

They build the International Space Station
to pave the way
to destinations beyond where we've been.

They predict how the dramatic and confusing forces
of nature and humankind
work with us and against us
to shape our lives.

They seek to break the growing logjam in air travel
by safely and efficiently taking us higher, faster and farther.

What they do is so bold
the world embraces them
as they embark into the unknown.
Together, we share the excitement of Eileen Collins,
who became the first female
to command the Space Shuttle
and successfully placed the Chandra X-ray observatory in orbit.

Together, we share the wonder
of the heavenly discoveries
from the rejuvenated Hubble telescope.

Together, we open our minds to the possibility:
could there be life beyond Earth?

And together,
we share the pain of failure.
Our Mars team planned for success,
but they were met with the cold reality of exploration:
the unknown can breed the unexpected.

But what makes NASA strong and vital
is not how the team reacts to success,
but how it learns from failure.

We could choose the easier path and set mediocre goals.

But we choose a more difficult path:
One that recognizes that without failure,
you do not have true success.

In the words Winston Churchill made famous,
that means:

Never give up, never give up, never EVER give up.

To Americans, and to NASA,
the 21st century presents the freedom to dream,
a chance to fulfill our hopes of exploration,
and an opportunity to reaffirm what we already know:
the possibilities are limited only by our imagination.